

13

ARTICLES

GIVEN BY *J. Deane*
Libbyfoile
vs Paul

And delivered to the
Church-wardens,

TO BE
Considered and Answered in his

VISITATION

Holden the in year of our Lord God

Whereunto the said Churchwardens and Side-
men are upon their Oathes to an-
swer truly and particularly.

LONDON,

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Thames-street, 1662.

THe Ministers and Churchwardens are to call unto them the Neighbours of the Parish, and out of them to make choice (according to the Custom of the place) of two or more of the discreetest Parishioners to be Side-men, and they altogether are to read over these Articles divers times.

Then after they have duly considered of them, they are to write the answer or presentment unto every Article particularly and truely, according to their consciences.

Lastly, they are all of them to bring their Presentments to the Visitation, and there the Churchwardens and Side-men upon their Oathes, but the Minister according to the Canon in that behalf, are to deliver them up under their hands.

The Oath to be given to the Churchwardens and Side-men of every Parish.

You shall Swear to inquire with the best diligence that you may, and to make a true answer unto every Article of this Book, now given you in Charge; Presenting every person in your Parish that hath done any Offence, or omitted any Duty therein mentioned. And this you shall do without any favour or hatred, or fear of displeasure: So help you God, and the Contents of his holy Gospel.





Inquiries about the Church and Church-yard.

I. **H**ave your Parish Church and Chancel decently kept for Gods honour? Are the Roofs, Walls, Pavements and Windows well repaired? Are the Ten Commandments, Lords prayer, and the Creed, drawn out in fair Letters, in convenient places? And are the Kings Armes set up?

2. Have you made levies for the reparation of the Church, and other holy uses? And are there any that refuse to pay the proportion levied upon them?

3. Have you a Font of Stone decently covered, standing towards the lower end of the Church, for the Administration of Baptism? Have you a comely Table placed conveniently in your Church or Chappel for the use of the Lords Supper? Have you a comely Carpet of Silk or good Stuff, for that holy Table, with a fair Linnen-cloth to spread upon it in the time of Administration? And have you an handsome Cup of silver for the Wine, and a Cover of silver to the same, to put the Bread on? And have you one or more Flagons of pewter, or better mettall for that use?

4. Are your reading Desk and Pulpit conveniently set up, and placed for the use of publick Prayer and Sermons? and hath your Pulpit a Cushion, and comely Covering before it?

5. Have you in your Church the Common Prayer-book of the largest Volume, set forth by Authority, with the books of Divine Service for the 5. of November, the 30th. of January, and the Nine and Twentieth of May? And have you the Bible in Folio, fairly bound, of King James's Translation? Have you also a decent Surplice, (one or more)

for your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, to wear in the time of all publick Ministrations?

6. Are the Tombs, Monuments, Grave-stones of the dead in your Church or Church-yard preserved, and not suffered to be broken, taken down, or removed?

7. Have you a Book of Parchment, wherein be registered the Births, Marriages and Burials in your Parish? Have you a strong Chest, with three Locks, wherein to preserve your Church Furniture? and a box for Almes, placed in a fit place for the relief of the poor?

8. Is the House and Out-houses of your Minister in good and sufficient repair? doth he preserve the Gardens, Orchards and Glebes belonging to him, without imbezeling, changing or any way dammifying them?

9. Is the Church-yard decently kept, and well fenced to keep out beasts?

Inquiries about the Parson, Vicar, Curate, Lecturer.

1. **H**ave the abovenamed received Episcopal Ordination, according to the Laws of the Kingdom?

2. Can you tell who did present your Parson, or Vicar to his Benefice? Have you heard, or known, that he came Simoniacally? Was he inducted into his Benefice before sufficient witnesses? And did he read the Nine and Thirty Articles, before, or at Morning or Evening prayer? and did he give his consent to them?

3. Hath he read the Book of Common-Prayer, as it is enjoined by the late Act of Uniformity for publick Prayer, Administration of the Sacraments, &c. on some Sunday before the 24 of August and did and doth he wear the Surplice while he performed that office, and other offices mentioned in that Common-prayer Book?

4. Hath he published his consent unto the said Book on some Sunday before the 24 of August abovenamed, openly in time of Divine-SERVICE? and hath he subscribed to the Declaration, as it is exprest in the 77 page of the abovenamed Statute, and manifested it to the Congregation openly?

5. Doth he preach a Sermon on every Sunday, or procure a Sermon then to be preached? or else sometimes read one of the Homilies which the Church hath appointed? And doth he often on Sundayes and Holy-dayes before Divine-SERVICE, instruct his Parishioners in the Catechism of the Church?

6. Doth

6. Doth he read the Service appointed for the 5th. of November, 30th. of January, and 29. of May? And doth he keep the yearly perambulation and rogation dayes before the feast of our Lords ascension?

7. If your Parson or Vicar keep a Curate, is he of godly life and sufficient learning? and is he allowed by the Ordinarie?

8. Doth your Parish maintain a Lecturer? is he a vertuous and orthodox Divine? Is he licensed by the Ordinarie? Doth he read the full Divine service of Common-prayer once a month at the least, wearing a Surplice?

9. Do you observe to your best understanding, That your Parson, Vicar, Lecturer or Curate do preach the true word of God? or do they, to your judgment, (having consulted with other grave Parishioners) bent dangerous opinions, derogating to the glory of God, and a pious life? Do they teach sedition directly against his Majesty, his Lawes, and Government? or do you note, that indirectly they cast out seditious glances against the Civil State, or Government Ecclesiastical?

10. Doth your Minister celebrate the Lords Supper in the Church, according to the service of the Common-prayer Book, often every year? Doth he repulse them from it that are scandalous by the sentence of the Lawes? Doth he baptize such Infants of his Parish according to the Service of the Common-prayer, as, upon warning given before, are brought on Sundays or Holy-days to the Church with Godfathers and Godmothers? And upon lawfull summons doth he baptize Infants at home in case of danger and necessity?

11. Doth he visit the Sick at their houses when he is required, upon lawfull summons? doth he pray with them, exhort them to faith and Repentance, and comfort them? Doth he give them the holy Communion, professing faith in Christ, and sorrow for their sins, if they require it? and doth he exhort them to brotherly love, and works of Charity, if he be able to bequeath a portion to pious uses?

12. Doth he prepare the young men and maidens of the Parish to be confirmed by the Bishop? doth he marry none clandestinely, but at due hours in the Church, and that upon Banes thrice published upon Sundays or Holy-days, or license obtained from the Spiritual Court? And doth he bury the dead according to the Book of Common-prayer?

13. Is your Minister, Lecturer, Curate, a man of sober, chaste, just, unblameable life? and spare not to present him, or them, that are not every way examples of Godliness?

14. Doth your Minister, with the Churchwardens, take care duely once in every three years, to send in the names of all such in his Parish, as have been baptized, married, buried, excommunicated, that

that they may be enrolled in the Deans Registry?

15. Doth your Minister maintain peace with his neighbours, and study to keep them in peace as much as in him lies? Doth he take diligent care to reduce all Sedaries, separatists, and refractory persons, to the obedience of the Doctrine and government of this Church? And doth he offer himself being an able learned man, to confer with Popish Recusants, to convert them, and to bring them into the bosom of this Church?

Concerning the Parishioners.

1. **D**O any of your Parishioners being 16 years of age, or upwards, or others lodging or commonly resorting to any house within your Parish, absent themselves from your Parish Church, upon Sundays or Holy-days at Morning and Evening Prayers? or who come late to Church, and depart from Church before Service be done upon the said dayes? or who do not behave themselves reverently during the time of Divine Service, devoutly kneeling when the general Confession of sin, the Letany, the Ten Commandments, and all Prayers and Collects are read, and using all due and lowly reverence when the blessed Name of the Lord Jesus Christ is mentioned, and standing up when the Articles of the Belief are read? or who do cover their heads in the Church during the time of Divine Service or Sermon, unless it be in case of necessity; in which case they may wear a Night-cap or Coif? or who do give themselves to babbling, talking or walking, and are not attentive to hear the Word preached or read? Do any of your Parish being of sixteen years of age, or upward, not receive the holy Communion in your Church thrice every year, whereof once at Easter? and do they devoutly kneel at the receiving thereof? and whether any having diverse houses of remobe, do shift from place to place of purpose to defeat the performance of their Christian duties in that behalf?

2. Do not any of your Parishioners (being admonished thereof) send their Children, Servants and Apprentices to the Minister, to be catechised upon such Sundays and Holy-days as are appointed? or do not any of them refuse to come, or if they come, refuse to learn those instructions set forth in the Book of Common Prayer?

3. Do any of your Parish entertain within their house any sojourner, common guests, or other persons, who refuse to frequent Divine Service, or receive the holy Communion, as aforesaid, present their names, their qualities or conditions?

4. What Recusant Papists are there in your Parish, or other Sedaries?

ries? present their names, qualities or conditions: whether they keep any Schoolmaster in their house, which cometh not to Church to hear Divine Service, and receive the Communion? what is his name, and how long hath he taught there, or elsewhere?

5. Do any of the said Popish Recusants, or other Schismatics, laboꝝ to seduce and withdraꝝ others from the Religion now established? or intrust their families or children in Popish Religion? or refuse to entertain any, especially in place of greatest service, or trust, but such as concurre with them in their opinions?

6. How long have the said Popish Recusants abstained from Divine Service, or from the Communion as aforesaid?

7. Is there any in your Parish that retain, sell, utter or disperse any Popish books or writings, or other books, libraries or writings of any Sectaries, touching the Religion, State, or Government Ecclesiastical of this Kingdom of England, or keep any monuments of superstition, uncanceled or undefaced?

8. Have you any in your Parish which heretofore being Popish Recusants or Sectaries, that have since reformed themselves, and come to Church to hear Divine Service, and receive the Sacraments? If yea, then who are they? and how long since have they so reformed themselves? and whether they still remain and abide in that conformity?

9. Is there any in your Parish that refuse to have their Children baptized, or themselves to receive the Communion at the hands of your Minister, taking exception against him, and what causes or exceptions do they alledge? or have any married Wives refused to come to Church according to the Book of Common Prayer, to give God thanks after their Child-birth for their safe deliverance? and do any of, or in your Parish, refuse to have their Children baptized in your Parish Church, according to the form prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer?

10. Do any of your Parish usually go to other Parish Churches to hear Divine Service or Sermons? or do they communicate, or baptize their Children in any other Parish?

11. Are there any in your Parish who will come to hear the Sermon, but will not come to publick Prayers, appointed by the Book of Common Prayer, making a schisme or division (as it were) between the use of Publick Prayer and Preaching?

12. What persons within your Parish, for any offence, contumacy or crime of Ecclesiastical Conscience do stand excommunicated? present their names, and for what cause they are excommunicated, and how long they have so stood, and what person or persons do wittingly and usually keep them company?

13. Do any not being in Orders, execute any Priestly or Ministerial Office in your Church, Chappel, or Church-yard, and what be their names?

14. Doth any in your Parish, that having heretofore taken upon him the Order of Priesthood or Deacon, since relinquished the same, and lives as a Lay-man neglecting his vocation?

15. Hath any person in your Parish quarrelled, or stricken, or used any violence to your Minister, or have stricken or quarrelled with any other person within your Church or Church-yard, or demeaned himself disorderly in the Church, by filthy or profane talk, or any other base or immodest behaviour? or hath disturbed the Minister in time of Divine Service or Sermon, or hath libelled or spoken slanderous words against your Minister, to the scandal of his vocation, or defamed any of his neighbours, touching any Crime of Ecclesiastical Conscience?

16. Have any of or in your Parish, without consent of the Ordinary or other lawfull authority, caused any to do penance, or to be censured or punished for any matter of Ecclesiastical Conscience, by any Alehouse meetings, or otherwise by their own authority? or have taken any money or commutation for the same? Present their names that have done it, and who have been so punished? in what manner, and upon what cause?

17. Do any persons in your Parish exercise any Trade, or labour, buy, or sell, or keep open Shops or Warehouses upon any Sunday or Holy-day, by themselves, their servants or Apprentises, or have otherwise profaned the said dayes, contrary to the Orders of the Church of England? and are there any Inn-keepers, Ale-house-keepers, Victuallers, or other persons, that permit any persons in their houses to eat, drink, or play, during the time of Divine Service or Sermon, or reading the Homilies in the forenoon or afternoon, upon those dayes?

18. Do any of your Parish hold or frequent any Conventicles or private Congregations, or make or maintain any Constitutions agreed upon in any such assemblies? Or any that do write, or publicly or privately speak against the Book of Common-prayer, or any thing therein contained, or against any of the Articles of Religion agreed upon in Anno 1562. or against the Kings Supremacy in causes Ecclesiastical, or against the Oath of Supremacy, or of Allegiance, as pretending the same to be unlawfull, and not warrantable by the Word of God? or against any of the Rites or Ceremonies of the Church of England, now established? or against the Government of the Church of England, under the Kings most excellent Majesty, by Archbishops, Bishops, Deans, Archdeacons, and other Officers of the same; affirming that the same is repugnant to the Word of God, and that the said Ecclesiastical

ecclesiastical officers are not lawfully ordained? Or whether there be any atheos, maintainers, or favourers of heresie or schism, or that be suspected to be Anabaptists, Libertines, Brownists, or any other heresie or schism? present their names.

19. Have any in your Parish married within the degrees by Law prohibited, and where, and by whom? And do any Couple in your Parish being lawfully married, live apart one from the other, without due separation by the Law? or any that have been divorced, which keep company with any other at bed, or at board?

20. Have any persons administered the goods of the dead, without lawful authority, or suppress the last Will of the dead? Or are there in your Parish any Wills not yet proved, or goods of the dead (dying intestate) left unadministered? By authority in that behalf, You shall not fail to present the Executors, and all others faulty therein.

21. Do any withhold the Stock of the Church, or any goods, or other things given to good and charitable uses?

22. Are your Hospitals, and Almshouses, and other such houses and Corporations founded to good and charitable uses, and the lands, possessions and goods of the same, ordered and disposed of as they should be? And do the Pastors, Governors, fellows, and others of the said houses or Corporations, behave and demean themselves according to the Ordinances and Statutes of their feberal foundations?

23. Have any in your Parish to your knowledge, or by common fame or report committed Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? or any which have impudently bragged or boasted, that he or they have lived incontinently with any person or persons whatsoever? or any that have attempted the Chastity of any woman, or solicited any woman to have the Carnal knowledge of her body? or which are commonly reputed to be common Drunkards, blasphemers of Gods holy Name, common Swearers, common slanderers of their neighbours, and sowers of discord, filthy & lascivious talkers, Usurers, Simoniackal persons, Bawdes, or harbourers of women with child which be unmarried, or conveying or suffering them to go away before they have made satisfaction to the Church? Or any that having heretofore been presented or suspected of any of the aforesaid Crimes, have for that cause departed your Parish, and are now returned again? Or any which have used any Incantments, Sorceries, Incantations, or Witchcrafts, which are not made felony by the Statutes of this Realm? Or any which have committed any Perjury in any Ecclesiastical Court, in an ecclesiastical cause? or which have committed any Forgery, punishable by the Ecclesiastical Lawes, and the procurers and abettors of the said offence? You

shall truly present the names of all and singular the said Offenders, and with whom they have committed the said offences, in case they have not been publickly punished to your knowledge for the same Crimes.

School-masters.

1. **D**oeth any in your Parish openly or privatly take upon him to teach Scholl, without license of the Ordinarie, and is he conformable to the Religion now established? And doeth he bring his Schollars to the Church, to hear Divine Service and Sermons? And doeth he instruct his Schollers in the grounds of the Religion now established in this Church of England? and is he carefull and diligent to benefit his Schollers in learning?

2. Doeth your Schoolmaster teach and instruct his youth in any other Catechism than is allowed by publick Authority? and what Catechism it is that he so teacheth?

3. Is any Living or Means given towards the erection or maintenance of any School, withhelden back, or otherwise employed, and by whom?

4. Doeth any keep Scholl within the Chancel or Church, by which means that holy place and the Communion-table are many wayes profaned, and the Windows broken?

Parish-Clarks, and Sextons.

1. **H**ave you a fit Parish-Clark, aged 20. years at least, of honest conversation, able to read and write? Are his and the Sextons wages paid without fraud, according to the ancient custom of your parish? if not, then by whom are they so defrauded and denied? By whom are they chosen? And whether the said Clark be approved by the Ordinarie? And hath he taken an oath, as in such cases is fit and required, and is he diligent in his Office, and serviceable to the Minister, and doeth he take upon him to meddle with any thing above his office, as churching of women, burying the dead, and such like?

2. Doeth your Clark or Sexton keep the Church clean, the doors locked at fit times? Is any thing lost or spoiled in the Church, through his default? Are the Communion-Table, Font, Books, and other Elements of the Church kept safe and clean? doeth he suffer any unseasonable ringings, or any prophane Exercise in your Church? or doeth he (when any is passing out of this life) neglect to toll a Bell, having notice thereof?

Physicians,

Physicians, Chirurgeons, and Midwives.

How many Physicians, Chirurgeons or Midwives have you in your Parish? How long have they used their several Sciences or Offices, and by what Authority? And how have they demeaned themselves therein, and of what skill are they accounted to be in their profession?

Toucing the Churchwardens and Side-men.

I. Have you and the Churchwardens, Questmen or Side-men, from time to time done yours and their diligence, in not suffering any idle person to abide either in the Church-yard or Church-porch, in Service or Sermon time, but caused them either to come into the Church to hear Divine Service, or to depart, and not to disturb such as be hearers there? And have they, and do you diligently see the Parishioners duely resort to the Church every Sunday and Holy-day, there to remain during Divine Service and Sermon? And have you or your predecessors Churchwardens, there suffered any Playes, Feasts, Drinkings, or any other profane usages, to be kept in your Church, Chappel, or Church-yards, or have suffered to yours and their utmost power and endeavour, any person or persons to be tipling or drinking in any Inn, or Aleualling-house in your Parish, during the time of Divine Service or Sermon, on Sundayes, and Holydayes?

2. How often have you admitted any to Preach within your Church or Chappel, which was not sufficiently licensed? And have you together with your Minister, taken diligent heed and care, that every Parishioner being 16 years of age, or upwards, have received thylce every year as aforesaid? And also that no strangers have usually come to your Church from their own Parish Church?

3. Have there been provided against every Communion, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and wholesome Wine for the Communicants that shall receive? and hath the Wine been brought in a clean and sweet standing Pot of Silver, or of other purer metall?

4. Were you chosen by the consent of the Minister, and the Parishioners? And have the late Churchwardens given up a just Accompt for their time, and delivered to their Successors by Bill indented, the money, and other things belonging to the Church, which was in their hands? And are the Alms of the Church faithfully distributed to the use of the poor?

5. Do you see the names of all Preachers which are strangers and preach in your Parish Churches, to be noted in a book for that purpose? and whether every such Preacher do subscribe his name, and of whom he had his Licence?

6. Doth any man trouble or molest you for doing your Duties?

7. Are there any Legacies withholden given to the Church or poor people, or to the mending of High-ways, or otherwise by the Testators? in whose hands it is; by whom it was given; and by whom it is withholden?

8. Do you know of any thing that hath been complained of, that is not redressed?

FINIS.

